



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

February 17, 2016

Minutes

Those Present:

Roger Newall, Stephen Asher, Steve Overman, Pat Gaston, Brian Leen, Chris Timm

SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

Those Excused:

Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, David Sparks, Jonathan Strawn, Mike Scramski and Martin Ethridgehill

I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:30 am

II. Review and Accept of Minutes from January 20, 2016

- The motion to accept the January minutes was approved.
- No changes or corrections

III. Public Comments

- No public comments were made.

IV. Unfinished Business

- Roger Newall updated the group about the coin project. He informed the group that there was an order of 300 new coins placed and should be in possession soon. He currently has 100 coins to continue giving out.
- Roger updated the group of the hiring process. The City is holding at a 10-12% hiring rate.
- There are a few board member positions that will be up in September. He mentioned that as Board members finish their term they have to take one year off, and then they are welcomed to come back as open positions are available.
- The 75th Anniversary of Kirtland Air Force Base is this year. The board would like to participate and wants to know how they can get involved with helping plan the celebrations. April 16 is the anniversary of the first plane to land at KAFB. Early June, the Thunderbirds will be in town.
- Stephen Asher informed the group that House Bill 93 passed the House and was on the floor of the Senate.
- Chris Timm let the board know of the Biker Chili Challenge fundraiser on February 20, 2016, to raise funds for Run for the Wall. He invited all to attend.

V. New Business

- The group was updated on a new collection policy for the VA hospital. The collections department will be going to the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department will be collecting on unpaid debt co-pays by any means available. Unpaid co-pay is when the providers insurance does not cover the co-pay or the patient did not file on their insurance.
- Roger brought to the groups' attention that this next year will be a very political year. He informed the group that they, as individuals, can support a party or organization, but they can NOT support a political campaign as part of the Veterans and Military Affairs Advisory Board.
 - It was mentioned about the possibility of getting a name tag with the proper affiliation that can be worn to conferences and vendor fairs. Individuals would have to pay the cost of the name tag, on their own, but Roger would look into taking care of the ordering process.
- Roger Newall let the Board know that he would be addressing the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Board of Directors at their Board meeting on Wednesday, February 17th about the changes needed for the Code Talkers Monument to move forward and their need to resubmit an application for the monument. The NMVM would

like to have the Code Talker Monument, but would like the monument the proper way by following the procedures in place for new monuments at the park.

- It was mentioned that this Board would like to have a representative from the City's Cultural Services Department to update the group on ideas and activities they would like to bring to the NMVM so everyone is aware of what is going on at the memorial (festivals, music/bands, cooking classes, etc.).
- Stephan Asher wanted to inform the group that the Veterans Business Advocates meetings, led by Chris Pacheco, would be meeting at the NMVM, starting in March.

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – March 16 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans' Memorial.

VII. Adjourn – 10:20 am.

DRAFT